

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as follows:

Claims 1 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. (U.S. Patent 4,870,686) in view of Kikinis et al. (U.S. Patent 5,799,067) and Schwelb et al. (U.S. Patent 5,950,123); Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. in view of Kikinis et al. and Schwelb et al., and further in view of Klatt ("Review of Text-To-Speech conversion for English"); and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. in view of Kikinis et al., Schwelb et al. and Klatt, and further in view of Marui (U.S. Patent 4,959,850).

Claims 1-8 and 10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 8, which are the only pending independent claims, have been amended.

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 5 and 8 in view of the combination of Gerson et al., Kikinis et al. and Schwelb et al. Claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended to include the recitation of *the short message is a character message received from a base station servicing the handset*.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or disclose such recitation. Accordingly, Claims 1, 5 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

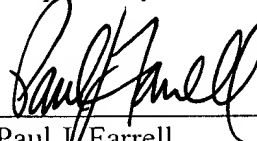
Without conceding the patentability *per se* of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10,

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these claims are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims, i.e. Claims 1-8 and 10, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484